



# Eugene Public Library Operations Levy

**Ballot Measure 20-111** ♦ **November 7, 2006**

*The Eugene City Council placed Measure 20-111 on the November 2006 ballot to ask voters if the City should continue Eugene Public Library's current level of services with funding provided in part by a four-year levy.*

## Ballot Measure 20-111

### CAPTION:

FOUR-YEAR LOCAL OPTION PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR LIBRARY OPERATIONS

### QUESTION:

Shall City of Eugene impose \$2,687,500 each year for four years to fund library operations beginning in fiscal year 2008? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

### SUMMARY:

In May 2002, the voters of the City of Eugene approved a four-year local option property tax levy in the amount of \$4,900,000 per year. The monies have funded library operations, including branch libraries, purchasing materials, extending library hours, and adding additional library staff. The levy is set to expire on June 30, 2007.

Beginning July 1, 2007, this new local option levy would renew a portion of the funding for the services now covered by the expiring levy.

If passed, the proposed levy of \$2,687,500 per year would total \$10,750,000 over four years. It is estimated that the levy will average about \$0.23 per \$1000 of assessed value per year over the four-year period of the levy. The estimated tax cost for this measure is an **ESTIMATE ONLY** based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate.

*If approved by the voters, funding from the measure would provide:*

### BOOKS

- ♦ Maintain Library collection at Oregon Library Association standard - 2.5 books per resident

### HOURS

- ♦ Continue to meet Oregon Library Association standard for open hours - 60 hours a week
- ♦ Downtown Library: continue to be open 7 days a week, including Sundays and evenings
- ♦ Bethel and Sheldon branches: continue to be open 6 days a week, including evenings

### PROGRAMS

- ♦ Continue to provide more than 1000 free public programs for all ages each year

### Cost information

The estimated tax rate for this measure is 23¢ per \$1000 assessed property value per year or, for the owner of an average Eugene home, approximately \$37 per year.

The measure would apply only to residents of Eugene, and only City residents may vote on the measure. Vote-by-mail ballots will be mailed to registered voters in mid-October. Ballots must be received at official Lane County Elections locations by 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2006.



## What is the mission statement of Eugene Public Library?

The mission statement, updated in 1996, reads, "The mission of Eugene Public Library is to support an informed community, lifelong learning, and the love of reading by providing access for all city residents to the universe of ideas and information."

## What would Measure 20-111 pay for?

Measure 20-111 would provide funding to continue Eugene Public Library services at their current levels through June 2011.

## Why is this measure being proposed now?

The previous four-year levy for library operations, approved by the voters in 2002, will expire in June 2007.

## Why is the cost per household for this measure less than it was for the 2002 Library levy? Would there be an impact to services?

The proposed cost per household of Measure 20-111 is lower than the 2002 levy. If this measure is approved, the average household cost would be 23¢ per \$1000 assessed property value. For the owner of an average Eugene home, this would be approximately \$37 per year. The 2002 measure cost the average household 50¢ per \$1000 assessed property value. For example, in 2006 the owner of an average Eugene home paid \$69.

Approval of Measure 20-111, however, would not require a reduction in services. As part of the resolution referring this measure to the voters, the City Council expressed its intent to increase the dollars from the General Fund to make up the difference in order to keep the current level of Library services. As part of that same resolution, the council also expressed its intent that Library services will be fully transferred to the General Fund over the four-year period of the levy.

## What is the current level of services?

### CARDHOLDERS AND BORROWING

- ◆ 92,600 cardholders
- ◆ 2.5 million check-outs per year

### BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

- ◆ 375,000 books and audio books
- ◆ 36,000 videos and DVDs
- ◆ 22,000 music CDs
- ◆ 825 magazine and newspaper subscriptions

### HOURS

- ◆ Downtown Library: open 7 days each week, including evenings
- ◆ Bethel and Sheldon branches: open 6 days each week, including evenings

### FREE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- ◆ 1000+ programs and events offered for all ages per year
- ◆ After-school and school vacation programs, including summer reading
- ◆ 35,000 children and teens attending programs per year
- ◆ Storytimes for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers
- ◆ Tours for school classes
- ◆ Author readings





- ◆ Educational talks, workshops, films
- ◆ Live music and performances
- ◆ Bilingual programs
- ◆ Computer classes

**AND:**

- ◆ Reference assistance in person, by phone, and on-line: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- ◆ Research databases on a wide variety of topics
- ◆ Public computers
- ◆ Internet access, including wireless at all locations
- ◆ Self-service check-out and holds
- ◆ Library notices by e-mail



## Who uses the Eugene Public Library?

Each day, the Library is used by thousands of people. The diversity of Library visitors includes students, teachers, families, business people, and retirees. The Library provides access services for persons with disabilities including adaptive technology computers and borrowing options designed for those unable to travel to the Library. The Library offers educational materials and bilingual programs for people learning English as a second language.

Seventy-one percent of residents report that they use the Library, making the Eugene Public Library second only to parks as the most-used City of Eugene service (City of Eugene Community Survey, December 2005). Library volunteers served 22,000 hours in the past year, more than any other City volunteer program.

## Recent Library and Levy History

The 1998 four-year levy approved by the voters made it possible to:

- ◆ open the Downtown Library 7 days a week
- ◆ increase Downtown Library hours to 56 per week
- ◆ start up Bethel and Sheldon branches
- ◆ furnish and operate the new Downtown Library
- ◆ expand the collection of books and other materials to 400,000 items
- ◆ raise the number of cardholders to 70,800
- ◆ increase circulation to 1.5 million check-outs per year

The 2002 four-year levy approved by the voters allowed the library to:

- ◆ keep the Downtown Library open 7 days a week
- ◆ increase Downtown Library hours to 64 to meet Oregon Library Association standards
- ◆ keep the Bethel and Sheldon branches open
- ◆ expand the collection of books and other materials to 445,000 items
- ◆ meet Oregon Library Association standard of 2.5 books per resident
- ◆ increase electronic resources, including Internet access
- ◆ raise the number of cardholders to 92,600
- ◆ increase circulation to 2.5 million check-outs per year

The 2006 four-year levy, Measure 20-111, would provide partial funding to continue Eugene Public Library services at their current levels through June 2011.



# Eugene Public Library Operations Levy

**Ballot Measure 20-111 ♦ November 7, 2006**

*If approved by the voters, funding from Measure 20-111 would provide continuation of Eugene Public Library services at current levels, including:*

## **BOOKS**

- ♦ Maintain library collection at Oregon Library Association standard (2.5 books per resident)

## **HOURS**

- ♦ Continue to meet Oregon Library Association standard for open hours (60 hours per week)
- ♦ Downtown Library: continue to be open 7 days per week, including Sundays and evenings
- ♦ Bethel and Sheldon branches: continue to be open 6 days per week, including evenings

## **PROGRAMS**

- ♦ Continue to provide more than 1000 free public programs per year

Measure 20-111 will appear on vote-by-mail ballots to be mailed to registered voters in mid-October. The measure would apply only to residents of Eugene, and only City residents may vote on the measure. Ballots must be received at official Lane County Elections locations by 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2006.



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**Eugene Public Library Operations Levy**

### **For more information:**

Visit the City's website at [www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov) or call the City Manager's Office at 682-5010.



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